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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3519  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEH AR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2336  
RUEH DS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2454  
RUEH RL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0968  
RUEH BY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1732  
RUEH DK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 2087  
RUEH KM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2508  
RUEH NR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4940  
RUEA IIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1603  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000895

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. WALCH  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: STATE OF PLAY - ZIMBABWE

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

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Mugabe Confronts ZANU-PF Internal Opposition  
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¶1. (C) Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe appears eager to conclude a power sharing deal--on his terms. The banner headline in Wednesday's The Herald was "Embrace power deal: Chihuri." Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri called for Zimbabweans to "forego our minor differences." Today's Herald headline pronounced "Tsvangirai's office ready." A fair reading is that ZANU-PF is set to conclude the agreement as long as it heads the home affairs ministry, which includes the police, and one other ministry among those still in play, presumably finance. (NOTE: We understand the MDC has already conceded other important ministries to ZANU-PF, including information, defense, security and justice. END NOTE.)

¶2. (C) Mugabe leads a fractured party and he is trying to satisfy key individuals and groups. Rumors circulated last week that he and Emmerson Mnangagwa were involved in a heated argument over the possibility of ceding home affairs to the MDC. According to these rumors, Mnangagwa grabbed Mugabe by the lapels at which point Mugabe's body guards forcibly subdued Mnangagwa, injuring him to the point that he was hospitalized. We have been unable to confirm the physical altercation; nevertheless, there appears to have been a serious rift between Mugabe and Mnangagwa over the allocation of ministries. Mnangagwa is loathe to allow any of the security apparatus to pass to the MDC. Sources have also told us that defense forces chief Constantine Chiwenga and Reserve Bank governor Gideon Gono are opposed to the MDC assuming responsibility for home affairs. They fear the ministry and police would investigate them for corrupt activities. As for finance, the finance minister, in consultation with the president, appoints the Reserve Bank governor. ZANU-PF, Gono, and top military officials, including Chiwenga, realize that loss of the finance ministry would likely be an end to the corrupt patronage system.

13. (C) Tirivanhu Mudariki, a close business associate and political advisor of General Solomon Mujuru, told us on September 29 that the Mujuru faction strongly supports the MDC and Morgan Tsvangirai and has been in regular contact with the MDC. The Mujurus believe ZANU-PF cannot solve the economic mess and they need a regularization of the business environment so that they can continue to conduct their many businesses. Innocent Chakonda, the MDC's lawyer and an advisor to Tsvangirai, confirmed to us the contacts with Mudariki and the Mujuru faction. Chakonda believed the Mujurus were sincerely interested in marginalizing Mugabe. In addition to their interest in economic stabilization, Chakonda thought that support of the MDC and weakening of Mugabe was part of the succession struggle in which the Mujuru faction sought to replace Mugabe within ZANU-PF.

14. (C) The Mujurus have not played an active role in the ZANU-PF internecine conflict, but rather have observed from the sidelines. Chakonda believes that once Parliament is in session, Mujuru deputies will work collaboratively with the MDC to support its legislative agenda and frustrate Mugabe and his supporters.

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MDC Draws a Line  
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15. (C) Chakonda related that Tsvangirai signed the power-sharing agreement despite a vote of the MDC national

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council that he not do so until there was a complete agreement, including on the allocation of ministries. Tsvangirai apparently had false assurances from Mugabe that, following the signing, quick agreement could be reached on the division of ministries in a way acceptable to the MDC. Tsvangirai, according to Chakonda, faced strong criticism from his party for signing. Chakonda told us (as did Tendai Biti today) that Tsvangirai had realized the error of his ways and would now insist on the MDC heading the home affairs and finance ministries before entering into the government.

16. (C) According to Chakonda, Tsvangirai had dispatched his vice-president, Thokozani Khupe, to South Africa to talk with President Motlanthe and ANC president Jacob Zuma. She may also talk with King Mswati of Swaziland. Biti told us he would meet tomorrow with Tanzanian president Kikwete. Based on conversations the MDC had with Mbeki, Zuma, Kikwete, and Motswati during the negotiation process, Chakonda believes they are sympathetic to the MDC's position on the ministries and will pressure Mugabe.

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COMMENT  
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17. (C) Although it is always wise to suspect Mugabe and his motives, the MDC and others such as Mudariki believe Mugabe wants an agreement, albeit on his terms. He has been constrained until now by hardliners within ZANU-PF such as Mnangagwa and the security chiefs, and by opportunists such as Gono. Tsvangirai appears set to hold the line. If SADC and the AU exert pressure on Mugabe he may have no choice but to cede home affairs and finance to the MDC. What the consequences would be within ZANU-PF if he does so are unclear. END COMMENT.

MCGEE